

The diluted samples and controls were transferred to the coated plates and were incubated for 1 hour at room temperature. The plates were washed thoroughly with distilled water and all wells were incubated with a horse radish peroxidase conjugate of goat anti-IgG diluted 1:2000 in TBST containing 1% BSA. Following a 1 hour incubation at room temperature, the plates were washed with distilled water. The amount of antibody present in samples was visualized using ABT substrate. The titers of each sample were based on the absorbance reading at 405 nm with a reference wavelength of 495 nm. A positive reading for samples was one in which the absorbance was two times the absorbance of the blank (negative control). Titters were determined by taking the reciprocal of the last dilution giving a positive reading. Consistency among assay plates was monitored by the absorbance reading of positive controls.

In the Claims:

Please amend claims 1-6 and 44-46 as follows:

1. (Four times amended) An isolated nucleic acid molecule consisting of a sequence selected from the group consisting of: (a) a sequence encoding an immunogenic polypeptide having at least 90% sequence identity to the contiguous amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2; and (b) a sequence encoding an immunogenic polypeptide having at least 90% sequence identity to the contiguous amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:5.

2. (Five times amended) The nucleic acid molecule of claim 1 wherein said nucleic acid molecule encodes an immunogenic polypeptide having a sequence with at least 90% sequence identity to the contiguous amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2.

10/25/00 10:45:00 AM 10/25/00 10:45:00 AM 10/25/00 10:45:00 AM 10/25/00 10:45:00 AM 10/25/00 10:45:00 AM

4. (Four times amended) A recombinant vector comprising:

(a) a nucleic acid molecule encoding an immunogenic polypeptide comprising a sequence selected from the group consisting of: (i) a sequence having at least 90% sequence identity to the contiguous amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2; and (ii) a sequence having at least 90% sequence identity to the contiguous amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:5; and

(b) control elements that are operably linked to said nucleic acid molecule whereby said coding sequence can be transcribed and translated in a host cell, and at least one of said control elements is heterologous to said coding sequence.

5. (Four times amended) A recombinant vector according to claim 4, wherein said nucleic acid molecule encodes an immunogenic polypeptide which comprises a sequence having at least 90% sequence identity to the contiguous amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2.

6. (Four times amended) A recombinant vector according to claim 4, wherein said nucleic acid molecule encodes an immunogenic polypeptide which comprises a sequence having at least 90% sequence identity to the contiguous amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:5.

44. (Amended) An isolated nucleic acid molecule comprising a sequence selected from the group consisting of: (a) a sequence encoding the contiguous amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2; and (b) a sequence encoding the contiguous amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:5.

15. (Amended) The nucleic acid molecule of claim 44 wherein said sequence